

VIA: _____
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

Trincala
DISPATCH NO. ~~HAG-A-1088~~

RYBAT/PBSUCCESS/SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

MAY 18 1954

TO : Chief, Lincoln

DATE:

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala []

Info: Washington []

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Kugown Operational Report

SPECIFIC— Essence

1. The attached report from Eliot P. Razmara contains important observations regarding the attitudes, the capabilities and the organization of the Essence complex and the opposition in general.
2. At first glance some of the observations may seem unduly pessimistic and suggest the urgent need for morale boosting. Such is not the case. This report was discussed at length with Razmara, and we are agreed that it is a realistic appraisal of existing conditions and morale boosting per se cannot dissipate the feelings described therein. Some of the reluctant oppositionists probably cannot be reached by any kind of propaganda. If anything inspires them to action it will be the first sign of action itself.
3. The tactical instructions and plans outlined in HUL-A-751 were received following the preparation of the attached report. Possibly some of the persons who have participated in overt activities in the past will be unwilling to take part in the proposed underground complex. However, it is our belief that the fears described in the attached report will not materially interfere with implementation of referenced plans. In fact, we feel certain that the apparent security of the proposed underground net will dissipate some of the reluctance now felt in certain quarters and encourage participation to the degree necessary for our purposes. Frequent progress reports on the subject of HUL-A-751 will be initiated as soon as Razmara has completed his comprehensive discussions with Essence.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

[]
Georgé L. Tranger

Encl: as noted

17 May 1954

Distribution:

- 2 - Lincoln w/encl
- 2 - Washington w/encl
- 1 - [] w/encl
- 1 - Files w/encl

RYBAT/PBSUCCESS/SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

FORM NO. 51-28A
MAR. 1949

20 MAY 1954

13 May 1954

SUBJECT: Meeting Between CARTER and ALBERTO

1. A meeting occurred between Oscar H. CARTER and ALBERTO on Wednesday night, 12 May.

2. Tuesday evening, 11 May, the government seized the copies of "El Rebelde", issue # 17, which were being mailed to the departments. The government states that the paper uses the same theme, "Dios, Patria, Libertad", and its articles are slanted along the same lines, as are used by the Castillo Armas partisans in Honduras and El Salvador, and over the clandestine radio - that it has subversive tendencies.

3. Those connected with the paper said that the anti-Communist opposition within Guatemala had adopted the theme before those on the outside had, and there was nothing they could do to prevent it. Furthermore, there was no connection between the "El Rebelde" group and those on the outside.

4. When the police were asked if this seizure meant that "El Rebelde" could no longer be published, the police would give no positive answer, not even to the question "then we can continue to publish the paper?". Only a "we'll see".

5. Yesterday those persons who went to the police to inquire about the paper's seizure were finger-printed, and all pertinent data taken concerning them.

6. As much as CARTER and those involved can determine, the seizure of the paper was not the result of any one article - rather is an indication of the government's growing preoccupation with the increase in opposition activities, particularly the "32" campaign, and the clandestine radio, as well as the growing boldness in hints of action to overthrow the government.

7. CARTER reports that government measures to track down and break the source of opposition within the country are increasing to such an extent that fear is developing within people of participating even in the overt activities of the anti-Communists, and some, because of discouragement that a change will ever occur, are accepting and participating in government programs, retiring completely from active participation in anti-Communism.

8. Orejas and police have been placed about all the anti-Communist filiales throughout the country. They are checking on all persons who attend meetings, go into the headquarters, or in any way assist in the anti-Communist activities.

9. CARTER reports that the result of this increasing government opposition to the anti-Communist activities, and the fear and even discouragement it arouses in many of the active anti-Communist workers, is to increase the difficulty in distributing the propaganda.

Note!
10. CARTER suggests that requests for the distribution of the "theoretical" type propaganda be kept to an absolute minimum (propaganda dealing with Communist attitude toward religion, slave labor camps in the U.S.S.R., etc. This information has been widely distributed in the past; what the people want now - if they can't get arms, instead of "paper", as many say - is propaganda with a "kick", something that at least hints of a real relief to come in the not too distant future, and propaganda that disturbs and angers).

11. To continue the dissemination of the theoretical type propaganda only serves to unnecessarily risk the security of those involved in its distribution, and to expose channels of communication.

12. There are (187) anti-Communist filiales in the country, located in the major population centers, which have been developed over a period of time, and at considerable work. In the majority of cases each filial in turn maintains contact with, and control over, three or four population centers or areas in that locality which are too scattered or sparsely settled to support an organized full-time filial.

13. If a communications channel or a filial breaks up or is made to dissolve through fear, disinterest, or whatever cause, it means not only has contact been broken with that town or pueblo, but with the whole area connected with the filial, and possibly even with other filiales. The people bearing the major responsibility in these areas have been developed usually through personal contact and only after a confidence in their ability and trustworthiness has been created - all involving time. To obtain replacements for them in the event of their compromise would be a tremendously involved process, requiring much time, effort, and personal contact.

14. In the departments, away from the independent news organs and more organized and vociferous public opinion, the police are much more brutal towards their prisoners than they are here in the capital. Prisoners are beaten, tortured, and confined, and frequently no one knows what happened until the prisoner returns (if he returns). All that his family or friends can be sure of is that so-and-so has disappeared one day or night, and that the authorities and police deny all knowledge of his whereabouts. Hence, when persons involved in anti-Communist work know this treatment is facing them, they are not particularly eager to expose themselves in distributing much propaganda they don't consider to be very effective or which is merely more or less a repeat of propaganda which has gone before and concerns information which everyone knows anyway.

15. It is because of these organized filiales that such programs as the "32" campaign can be spread rapidly and deeply through the country. The "32" campaign had such success because it was a different type propaganda and the publicity resulting from the arrests, automobile pick-ups, school-children, etc., excited the people. The newness and hint of something subversive with a promise of a change was also apparent in the case of the Comité Reivindicación Nacional letter, and in the clandestine radio. These things give people the idea that they are not exposing themselves for just a bunch of words, but that at last after all these years, something seems to be brewing that has teeth.

16. Because of the government measures in checking up on the committees and envoys sent out by CARTER to the departments, CARTER is finding it necessary to continually change the personnel of these groups. The supply is not unlimited, and he states that it has become exceedingly difficult to encounter fresh, uncompromised personnel to fill these roles. This is another reason why the personnel must not be exposed unnecessarily in the distribution of any propaganda which does not continually serve to heighten interest and seem to offer a little bit more than was offered or said in the preceding distribution.

13. The government is considering requiring that all purchases and sales of coffee be made through INFOP. This measure will give the government strict control over the coffee finqueros' income, as well as preventing these finqueros from keeping their money in bank deposits in the exterior. It will also provide the government with an additional source of income since the government will control the buying price from the finqueros, and any rise in price from the time the coffee is purchased by the government to the time it sells, will accrue to the government, rather than the finqueros.

14. The parents of Rivera (fnu), cousin of [] who is in [] with PANCHO, arrived at CARTER's house yesterday morning. They stated that it is almost two weeks since their son, who is 17 years old, left to join the opposition in [] and they are very worried about him, whether he arrived safely, etc., and when he is coming back. CARTER told them that he knew absolutely nothing about [] had no connections with the movement, etc., but advised them that for the safety of their son, as well as themselves, they not go about talking of this matter. CARTER suggests that Rivera write his parents, telling them he is safe and not to go about talking.

15. The next meeting between CARTER and ALBERTO is scheduled for Thursday night, 13 May.

[]
ALBERTO